

186. **528, Agrigento, Sicily**

ReGenesis is the first open-access encyclopedia to
liberate pre-colonial research
to its rightful 3,000,000 BCE origins
- and -
liberate female spirituality.
(RGS.)

* * *

Agrigento, Akragas, Agrigentum.

Given Sicily's central Mediterranean location,
it has been inhabited since the Paleolithic
and considered a significant
African Diaspora crossroad.
(RGS: 10,000 BCE, Grotta dell'Addaura.)

Agrigento, (ancient Akragas–Agrigentum) is located in southwest Sicily and distinguished by the Concord Temple in Valley of the Temples along with seven other temples. This list includes a chthonic temple to either Dioscuri (*Dioskouroi*) – or – Demeter/Persephone. Other selected temples are dedicated to: Juno/Hera Lacinia, Zeus, Dioscuri, and Herakles. Little remains of Hera's Doric temple due to an extensive 4th century AD earthquake. Not only have earthquakes impacted Agrigento over the centuries, but also ongoing invasions and occupations by: the Canaanites; Greeks; Carthaginians; Romans; Christians; and Arabs.

In addition to the invasions and occupations at Agrigento, the following speaks to a more ancient scenario regarding Sicily's Paleolithic origins.

Given Sicily's central Mediterranean location, it has been inhabited since the Paleolithic and considered a significant African Diaspora crossroad. From Sicily, ancient African peoples expanded into Asia, Europe, and Australia, plus North and South America (MDM: 25; DM: 4; RGS). Numerous examples of Paleolithic dolmens, menhirs, caves, grottos and rock art on the northwest coast of Sicily, demonstrate ancient African habitations, burials and ritual practices. In summary, numerous archaeological finds authenticate and support a culture of highly advanced and skilled peoples (RGS). (RGS: 10,000, Grotta dell'Addaura.)

The Agrigento sites and temples * of Demeter – Persephone (Kore) deserve special mention here. As noted, one of the seven temples is dedicated to Dioscuri (*Dioskouroi*). It is known as the temple of the chthonic deities but originally may well have been dedicated to chthonic Demeter – Persephone. (Final determination is pending.) In addition to the ‘likely’ Demeter – Persephone chthonic temple, further Agrigento temple remnants of Demeter – Persephone are located in the eastern part of the city under the Christian Church, St. Biagio. ** Other Demeter – Persephone sacred sites at Agrigento are two subterranean grottos that include natural springs and busts of Demeter and Persephone (Kore) suggesting a ritual area (or Mystery Center) similar to the grotto/pool in the Bogazkoy Complex, Anatolia and the Fossa Sanguinis in the Porta Laurentina at Ostia Rome.

* (See numerous examples in the GSA section below.)

** The practice of Christian churches subsuming Pagan sites was far from uncommon (RGS). (RGS: 370, Isis and Philae, Egypt.)

Regarding Demeter/Kore’s mystery centers and agrarian festivals, Agha-Jaffar says that the Lesser Mysteries were a purification requirement and introductory initiation to the Greater Mysteries.

The Greater Mysteries, which lasted nine days (symbolic of the nine months of pregnancy and reminiscent of Demeter’s search for her daughter before learning of her abduction to the underworld), also consisted of purifications and sacrifices, concluding in a final, visionary experience. ...Purification, fasting, prayers, sacrifices, and the drinking of a barley potion, kykeon, were involved. ...Although the grain was nothing more than grain, it may possibly have come to represent the gifts that Demeter and Persephone had bestowed on mankind [humankind]. Demeter provided food and wealth; Persephone presented the possibility of birth under the earth (DPL: 9). (GWWS: 77.)

In the agrarian festivals, Mother Earth Demeter/Persephone (Kore) held a prominent position as “worshippers expressed concern for the fertility of the earth and are thought to have confessed the earth to be nourished and protected by the divine mother.” (TAM: 6.) This was especially evident in the double goddess * Demeter – Persephone (Kore) Eleusinian Mysteries until the introduction of the male fertility figure Iakchos, later Triptolemos.

* (RGS: 1000, Double Goddess Transition.)

Among the ancient Mystery Rites are:

Andanian Mysteries of Messenia, Dionysian Mysteries, naturalized Anatolian Mysteries, and the Demeter (Mother) and Persephone/Kore (Daughter) Eleusinian Mysteries. Also, deserving of mention are the Samothrace Cabiric Mysteries second only to the Eleusinian Mysteries. Mystery (*mysterion* in Greek) means closed or secret. ‘Vows of silence were meant to ensure that the initiate would keep the holy secret from being revealed to outsiders’ (TAM: 4; RGS). (RGS: 500, Greek Mysteries).

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* For the matrix of descent and re-turned deities see RG: 37-48 CE, Mary and Pagan Goddesses.

(Further information on the Pergamon mystery rites is pending, including the nearby Myrina temple affiliated with early Amazons of possibly Scythian origins from Colchis.)

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IMAGE: MAP: SICILY, ITALY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: MAP: SICILY, ITALY.

SLIDE LOCATION MSC. ITALY, SHEET MAPS, ROW 1, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #8, BCE.

CO_MIT_MAP_R1_SL3_S8

SHOT ON LOCATION: BRITISH MUSEUM: LONDON, ENGLAND.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK PROJECT 2002.

IMAGE: TEMPLE OF CHTHONIC DEITY DEMETER-KORE: AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION TEMPLE OF CHTHONIC DEITY DEMETER-KORE, AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

SLIDE LOCATION SICILY, SHEET 10, ROW 2, SLEEVE 2, SLIDE #18, BCE.

CU_SIC_S10_R2_SL2_S18

SHOT ON LOCATION: AKRAGAS, LATER AGRIGENTUM (AGRIGENTO): SICILY, ITALY.

NOTE 1: ALSO KNOWN AS THE TEMPLE OF THE CHTHONIC DEITIES.

NOTE 2:

OTHER DEMETER TEMPLE REMAINS CAN BE FOUND IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE CITY UNDER ST. BIAGIO CHURCH. ALSO SEE A SECOND (PRE-HELLENIC) DEMETER–KORE SANCTUARY INC. 2 GROTTOS, NATURAL SPRINGS, AND BUSTS OF DEMETER–KORE (RGS).

NOTE 3: FIELDWORK 1998.

IMAGE: GOLD STATUE OF CATHEDRA (SEATED) GODDESS: DEMETER.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: SEATED (CATHEDRA) GOLD WITH CORNUCOPIA.

SLIDE LOCATION FRANCE, SHEET 1, ROW 2, SLEEVE 2, SLIDE #6, BCE.

CO_FRA_S1_R2_SL2_S6.jpg

SHOT ON LOCATION: MUSÉE DU LOUVRE: PARIS, FRANCE.

NOTE 1: “ALONG WITH THE CULTIVATION OF GRAIN, GREEK GODDESS DEMETER ALSO BECOMES KNOWN AS THE LAW–GIVER (*THESMOPHOROS*) (RC: 233; RGS).”

NOTE 2:

THE GREAT FESTIVAL OF THESMOPHORIA, DURING THE MONTH OF PYANEPSION, WAS ALSO DEDICATED TO DEMETER. THIS CELEBRATION WAS RESTRICTED TO WOMEN, AND HERE AGAIN, CAKES WERE THE CULTIC SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS (TVG: 175). (RGS.)

NOTE 3: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1980-1989.

IMAGE: DOUBLE GODDESS DEMETER/PERSEPHONE–KORE: IZMIR, (ANATOLIA) TURKEY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: MARBLE STATUE OF DOUBLE GODDESS DEMETER/PERSEPHONE–KORE: IZMIR, (ANATOLIA) TURKEY.

SLIDE LOCATION TURKEY, SHEET 111, ROW 2, SLEEVE 5, SLIDE #Bj255, 150-30 BCE.

CO_TUR_S111_R2_SL5_SBj255

SHOT ON LOCATION: IZMIR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM: IZMIR, (ANATOLIA) TURKEY.

NOTE 1: “MAIDEN FORM (KORE) OF THE GODDESS SHARE[S] THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MATURE FORM (DEMETER), AS GIVER OF CROPS ON THE EARTH AND RULER OF THE UNDERWORLD (LG: 100).”

NOTE 2: SEE GOODISON FOR FURTHER FIGURES OF FEMALE PAIRS. (MHE: 152.)

NOTE 3: (RGS: 1000, DOUBLE GODDESS TRANSITION.)

NOTE 4: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1986.

IMAGE: DEMETER – PERSEPHONE AND IAKCHOS: GREECE.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: GREEK DEMETER, PERSEPHONE/KORE AND SON IAKCHOS/TRIPTOLEMOS.

SLIDE LOCATION CRETE, SHEET 3, ROW 3, SLEEVE 2, SLIDE #32, 5-CENTURY BCE.

CU_CRE_S3_R3_SL2_S32.

SHOT ON LOCATION: METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK, NY.

NOTE 1:

DURING THE PERIOD OF ATTIC CONTROL OVER THE [ELEUSIS] SANCTUARY, A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO REDUCE THE EARTH MOTHER SYMBOLISM OF THE CULT [CULTURE]. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PATTERN OF ‘DEFEMINIZATION’ OF MYTHS. A NEW MALE OBJECT OF WORSHIP WAS INTRODUCED, THE BOY IAKCHOS, LATER CALLED TRIPTOLEMOS (TROP: 351).

NOTE 2: "IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF GREECE, DEMETER'S SYMBOLIC ROLE AS THE GIVER OF LIFE WAS TAKEN OVER BY A MALE SURROGATE, HER DIVINE SON, A MODEL FOR THE FUTURE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY (OFG: 163)."

NOTE 3: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1993.

PHOTO NOTE: IMAGEOVEREXPOSED ,CHRISI KARVONIDES' TEAM.

IMAGE: DEITY DEMETER HOLDING A PIGLET: CARTHAGE OR DUGGA, TUNISIA.
PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: STANDING DEITY DEMETER HOLDING A PIGLET, TUNIS, TUNISIA.

SLIDE LOCATION TUNISIA, SHEET 7, ROW 2, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #32C, BCE.

CO_TUN_S7_R2_SL3_S32C.jpg

SHOT ON LOCATION: BARDO MUSEUM: TUNIS, TUNISIA.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989.

IMAGE: TEMPLE OF DIOSKOUROI: AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION TEMPLE OF TEMPLE OF DIOSKOUROI, AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

SLIDE LOCATION SICILY, SHEET 9, ROW 3, SLEEVE 4, SLIDE #31, BCE.

CU_SIC_S9_R3_SL4_S31

SHOT ON LOCATION: AKRAGAS, LATER AGRIGENTUM (AGRIGENTO): SICILY, ITALY.

NOTE 1: ALSO, KNOWN AS THE TEMPLE OF CHTHONIC DEITIES.

NOTE 2: IN THE BACKGROUND OF CHTHONIAN DEMETER (OR JUNO).

NOTE 3: FIELDWORK 1998.

IMAGE: CONCORD (AKRAGAS) TEMPLE: AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION W. FRONT VIEW OF DORIC CONCORD (AKRAGAS) TEMPLE (LATER ST. PETER & PAUL CHURCH 450-440 AD) AGRIGENTO, SICILY. (COLUMNS, PEDIMENTS AND CORNICE ARE STILL STANDING.)

SLIDE LOCATION SICILY, SHEET 8, ROW 1, SLEEVE 4, SLIDE #28, 6th c. AD.

CU_SIC_S8_R1_SL4_S28

SHOT ON LOCATION: AKRAGAS, LATER AGRIGENTUM (AGRIGENTO): SICILY, ITALY.

NOTE 1: TWO OTHER ALL BUT IDENTICAL 450 BCE DORIC TEMPLES INCLUDE HERA II IN PAESTUM ITALY AND THE HEPHAESTEUM IN ATHENS. (CS: 130.)

NOTE 2: FIELDWORK 1998.

IMAGE: TEMPLE OF HERAKLES: AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION TEMPLE OF HERAKLES, AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

SLIDE LOCATION SICILY, SHEET 8, ROW 3, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #35, BCE.

CU_SIC_S8_R3_SL3_S35

SHOT ON LOCATION: AKRAGAS LATER AGRIGENTUM: AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK 1998.

IMAGE: ROCK-CUT TOMBS: AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION ROCK-CUT TOMBS AND CATACOMBS WITH ARCHED ENTRANCES AND ROUND INTERIOR HALLS, AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

SLIDE LOCATION SICILY, SHEET 7, ROW 1, SLEEVE 2, SLIDE #10, BCE.

CU_SIC_S7_R1_SL2_S10

SHOT ON LOCATION: AKRAGAS LATER AGRIGENTUM: AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK 1998.

IMAGE: CORNER OF ROCK-CUT TOMBS: AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: SKYLINE AT THE CORNER OF THE ROCK-CUT TOMBS AND CATACOMBS, AGRIGENTO, SICILY.

SLIDE LOCATION SICILY, SHEET 7, ROW 2, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #14, BCE.
CU_SIC_S7_R2_SL3_S14
SHOT ON LOCATION: AKRAGAS LATER AGRIGENTUM: AGRIGENTO, SICILY.
NOTE 1: FIELDWORK 1998.

IMAGE © GSA. DESCRIPTION OF TWO SUBTERRANEAN NATURAL SPRINGS/GROTTO (MYSTERY CENTER?) INCLUDING BUSTS OF CHTHONIC DEMETER/PERSEPHONE (KORE).

SLIDE LOCATION , SHEET , ROW , SLEEVE , SLIDE # , BCE.
ON LOCATION: AGRIGENTO, SICILY. IMAGE IN PROCESS.

NOTE 1:

FURTHER SUBTERRANEAN RITUAL AREA CONSIDERATIONS OF DEMETER/PERSEPHONE (MYSTERY CENTERS?) ARE FOSSA SANGUINIS IN THE PORTA LAURENTINA AT OSTIA – AND – REMAINING ENTRANCE TO THE GROTTO POOL (?) IN THE BOGAZKOY COMPLEX, (ANATOLIA) TURKEY (RGS).

NOTE 2: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1998.

PHOTO NOTE: ILLUSTRATION TBD, CHRISI KARVONIDES' TEAM.

PHOTO NOTE: FOR FURTHER AGRIGENTO SUBTERRANEAN NATURAL SPRINGS-GROTTO RESEARCH AND IMAGES, SEE GOOGLE SCHOLAR.

IMAGE © GSA. DESCRIPTION SUBTERRANEAN GROTTO (POSSIBLY A RITUAL MYSTERY SITE?) AT FOSSA SANGUINIS IN THE PORTA LAURENTINA AT OSTIA ANTICA, HARBOR CITY OF ANCIENT ROME ON THE RIVER TIBER.

SLIDE LOCATION, SHEET , ROW , SLEEVE , SLIDE # , BCE.
ON LOCATION: IMAGE OF OSTIA ROME IN PROCESS.

NOTE 1: FURTHER SUBTERRANEAN RITUAL AREA CONSIDERATIONS OF DEMETER/PERSEPHONE (MYSTERY CENTERS?) ARE TWO SUBTERRANEAN NATURAL SPRINGS /GROTTO INCLUDING AGRIGENTO, SICILY – AND – REMAINING ENTRANCE TO THE GROTTO/POOL IN THE BOGAZKOY COMPLEX, (ANATOLIA) TURKEY.

NOTE: FIELDWORK PROJECT.

PHOTO NOTE: ILLUSTRATION TBD, CHRISI KARVONIDES' TEAM.

IMAGE: GROTTO/POOL IN TEMPLE COMPLEX: BOGAZKOY, (ANATOLIA) TURKEY.
PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: SUBTERRANEAN GROTTO AND POSSIBLE POOL OR SACRED SPRING COVERED BY A LOW CORBEL VAULT ON BACK WALL IN LARGE RECTANGULAR BUILDING OF TEMPLE AREA.

SLIDE LOCATION TURKEY, SHEET 63, ROW 4, SLEEVE 3, SLIDE #795, BCE.
CO_TUR_S63_R4_SL3_S795

SHOT ON LOCATION: BOGAZKOY COMPLEX, (ANATOLIA) TURKEY.

NOTE 1: THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN IS ALL BUT IDENTICAL TO CITADEL OF MYCENAE, POSTERN GATE OF THE WALL (1353-1330 BCE). MYCENAE, GREECE.

NOTE 2:

FURTHER SUBTERRANEAN RITUAL AREA CONSIDERATIONS OF DEMETER/PERSEPHONE (MYSTERY CENTERS?) ARE TWO SUBTERRANEAN NATURAL SPRINGS/GROTTO INCLUDING AGRIGENTO, SICILY AND FOSSA SANGUINIS IN THE PORTA LAURENTINA AT OSTIA ANTICA, HARBOR CITY OF ANCIENT ROME ON THE RIVER TIBER?

NOTE 3: FIELDWORK PROJECT 1989.